

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00842 201420Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7401

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CY, UK, US

SUBJECT: UNHELPFUL PRESS STORIES SPECULATING ON POSSIBLE
U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN TURKISH DEPARTURE FROM SBA

1. THE GUARDIAN MONDAY JAN 20 CAR-
RIED UNHELPFUL ARTICLES BY PARTICK KEATLEY IN LONDON AND
DAVID TONGE IN ATHENS. KEATLEY SAYS: "POWERFUL AMERICAN
PRESSURE BEHIND THE SCENES MAY HAVE BEEN THE KEY FACTOR
IN PERSUADING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A CALCULATED
RISK ON THE DECISION TO ALLOW THE AIRLIFT OF 8,500 TURKISH
CYPRIOTS FROM THE CAMPS IN AKROTIRI TO NEW HOMES IN THE
NORTH OF CYPRUS." IT SAYS THE CLUE AS TO WHAT WAS GOING
ON MAY LIE IN WASHINGTON, WHERE PRESIDENT FORD AND DR.
KISSINGER CONVENED A VITAL MEETING INVOLVING THE AMBAS-
SADORS OF GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS. ARTICLE SPECULATES
THAT DEPARTURE OF TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES FROM SBA AP-
PEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR LEVER THAT HAD TO BE MOVED
IN ORDER TO GET PEACE-MAKING MACHINERY UNDER WAY.

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2. TONGE ARTICLE IS LESS POINTED. ITS LEAD PARAGRAPH NOTES ANTI-BRITISH FEELING CONTINUING IN ATHENS AMID "GROWING FEARS THAT BR LISH, BY ALLOWING THE TURKISH REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THE TURKISH-HELD ZONE OF THE ISLAND, ARE HELPING THE AMERICANS ACHIEVE THEIR LONG-CHERISHED DREAM OF PARTITIONING CYPRUS".

3. SINCE GUARDIAN IS ONLY ONE CARRYING SUCH STORIES, EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THEY WILL NOT BE REPEATED. HOWEVER, IF ASKED BY OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, EMBASSY (INCLUDING USIS) PROPOSES TO DENY THERE IS ANY TRUTH IN ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT PRESSURE WAS BEHIND BRITISH DECISION TO LET TURKISH REFUGEES DEPART FROM SBA TO TURKEY. EMBASSY WILL REFER CORRESPONDENTS TO FACT THAT MAJORITY OF PRESS STORIES APPEARING IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS CONCENTRATED ON BRITISH REASONS FOR MAKING DECISION. (WE SHALL ALSO CORRECT KEATLEY'S ERROR ABOUT MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS FROM GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS IN WASHINGTON IF THIS COMES UP.) EMBASSY WILL CALL ATTENTION OF FCO OFFICIALS TO THESE TWO STORIES, EXPRESSING HOPE FCO WILL DISCOURAGE SUCH SPECULATION. WE AS-
SUME DEPARTMENT APPROVES THIS COURSE.

SPIERS

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